

Application No.: 09/466947

Case No.: 55288US002

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-19, 21-24 and 26-31 remain pending, claims 9 and 20 having been canceled upon entry of this amendment. In the previous Office Action, claims 7-12, 15, 16, 20, 27, 28 and 31 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of previous dependent claim 7, and independent claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of previous dependent claim 20. In addition, previous dependent claims 7, 15, 16, 27 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the claims from which they previously depended.

The undersigned wishes to extend his appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies granted during the interview of December 3, 2002, and for the recognition that the application contains patentable subject matter. It is believed that the application is in full condition for allowance, and such action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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